

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 - 9, 11 - 17, 22, 27, 34, and 37. Please amend claims 10, 23, 26, and 33. Please add claims 38 - 49.

Claims 1 - 9 (cancelled).

10. (currently amended) A portable computer configurable in a tablet configuration, a laptop configuration, and a closed configuration, said portable computer comprising:

a display unit having a display device and a back surface;

a base unit having a primary input device and a bottom surface;

a latching assembly to maintain said portable computer in one of said closed configuration and said tablet configuration; and

a hinging assembly coupling said display unit to said base unit, said hinging assembly having a first hinge with a first axis of rotation and a second hinge with a second axis of rotation, wherein

one of said first hinge and said second hinge is rotated to reconfigure said portable computer between said closed configuration and said laptop configuration, [[and]]

said first hinge and said second hinge are rotated to reconfigure said portable computer between said closed configuration and said tablet configuration, and

said second hinge is oriented to rotate a shaft about a vertical axis and includes a ball bearing having an inner race coupled to the shaft and an outer

race coupled to the base unit, and the shaft is coupled to a support plate

Claims 11 - 17. (cancelled)

18. (original) The portable computer according to claim 10, wherein said first axis of rotation and said second axis of rotation are perpendicular.

19. (original) The portable computer according to claim 18, wherein rotation of said first hinge causes said display unit to tilt with respect to said base unit and rotation of said second hinge causes said display unit to swivel with respect to said base unit.

20. (original) The portable computer according to claim 19, wherein said display unit has a first orientation when said portable computer is in said laptop configuration, and further wherein said second hinge operates in a range of rotation having an upper limit, such that said display unit has a second orientation opposite to said first orientation when said second hinge is rotated to said upper limit of said range of rotation of said second hinge.

21. (original) The portable computer according to claim 18, wherein said first hinge has a range of rotation with an upper limit of 90 degrees.

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) The portable computer according to claim ~~[[22]]~~ 18, further including a cable for transmitting electronic signals, said cable having a first end coupled to said base unit and a second end coupled to said display unit, wherein a portion of said cable passes through said shaft.

24. (original) The portable computer according to claim 18, further including a locking pin selectively insertable into a first cavity to prevent said second hinge from rotating.

25. (original) The portable computer according to claim 24, wherein said locking pin is inserted into said first cavity when said portable computer is in said laptop configuration.

26. (currently amended) The portable computer according to claim 24, further including a second cavity when said portable computer is in said tablet configuration.

27. (cancelled).

28. (original) The portable computer according to claim 24, wherein said locking pin is inserted into said first cavity by movement of a mechanical actuator.

29. (original) The portable computer according to claim 28, wherein said mechanical actuator is one of a lever arm and a push button.

30. (original) The portable computer according to claim 18, said latching assembly further including a latching arm having a first projection and a latch body having a first cavity adapted to receive said first projection to maintain said portable computer in one of said closed configuration and said tablet configuration.

31. (original) The portable computer according to claim 30, said latching arm further including a second projection, wherein said first cavity is also adapted to receive said second projection, and further wherein said first projection is received by said first cavity to maintain said portable computer in said closed configuration, and further wherein said second projection is received by said first cavity to maintain said portable computer in said tablet configuration.

32. (original) The portable computer according to claim 30, said latching arm further including a second projection and said latch body further including a second cavity adapted to receive said second projection, wherein said first projection is

received by said first cavity to maintain said portable computer in said closed configuration, and further wherein said second projection is received by said second cavity to maintain said portable computer in said tablet configuration.

33. (currently amended) A method for reconfiguring a portable computer among a tablet configuration, a laptop configuration, and a closed configuration, wherein said display device is contained in a display unit and said primary input device is contained in a base unit, said method comprising:

when said portable computer is in said closed configuration such that said display device and said primary input device are contained between a back surface of said display unit and a bottom surface of said base unit, rotating a first hinge to tilt said display unit relative to said base unit until said portable computer is in said laptop configuration;

rotating a second hinge when said portable computer is in said laptop configuration to swivel said display unit relative to said base unit;

rotating said first hinge after said second hinge has been rotated to place said portable computer in said tablet configuration; and

closing a latching assembly by inserting a latching arm into a latching block, when said portable computer is in said tablet configuration to couple said base unit to said display unit, wherein said latching arm is mounted on a first portion coupled to said display unit and said latching block is mounted on a second portion coupled to said base unit.

Claim 34. (cancelled)

35. (original) The method according to claim 33, wherein rotating said second hinge includes removing a locking pin from a cavity when said portable computer is in said laptop configuration.

36. (original) The method according to claim 33, wherein rotating said second hinge includes inserting a locking pin into a cavity after said display unit has been swiveled relative to said base unit.

Claim 37. (Cancelled)

38. (new) A portable computer configurable in a tablet configuration, a laptop configuration, and a closed configuration, said portable computer comprising:

a display unit having a display device and a back surface;

a base unit having a primary input device and a bottom surface;

a latching assembly to maintain said portable computer in one of said closed configuration and said tablet configuration;

a hinging assembly coupling said display unit to said base unit, said hinging assembly having a first hinge with a first axis of rotation and a second hinge with a second axis of rotation; and

a locking pin, coupled to the hinging assembly and the base unit, to prevent swiveling of the display unit when the portable computer is not in the laptop model, wherein

one of said first hinge and said second hinge is rotated to reconfigure said portable computer between said closed configuration and said laptop configuration and

said first hinge and said second hinge are rotated to reconfigure said portable computer between said closed configuration and said tablet configuration.

39. (new) The portable computer of claim 38, wherein one end of the locking pin is coupled to components of the hinging assembly that rotate about the second axis and a second end is inserted into a cavity of an outer race of a ball bearing.

40. (new) The portable computer of claim 38, wherein one end of the locking pin is coupled to components of the hinging assembly that rotate about the second axis and a second end is inserted into a portion of the base unit.

41. (new) The portable computer of claim 40, wherein a component of the hinging assembly that rotates about the second axis is an inner race of the second hinge.

42. (new) The portable computer of claim 40, wherein a component of the hinging assembly that rotates about the second axis is a shaft.

43. (new) The portable computer of claim 40, wherein a component of the hinging assembly that rotates about the second axis is a support plate.

44. (new) The portable computer of claim 38, wherein one end of the locking pin may be pivotally attached to a lever running through the base unit and another end of the locking pin may be inserted into a cavity of a component that rotates about the vertical axis relative to the base unit.

45. (new) The portable computer of claim 38, wherein one end of the locking pin may be pivotally attached to a lever running through the base unit and another end of the locking pin may be inserted into a first cavity if the portable computer is in the

laptop configuration and into a second cavity if the portable computer has been swiveled approximately one hundred eight degrees.

46. (New) A portable computer configurable in a table configuration, a laptop configuration, and a closed configuration, said portable computer comprising:

a base unit having a primary input device and a bottom surface;

a display unit having a display device and a back surface, said display unit movably attached to said base unit such that said primary input device is between said back surface of said display unit and said bottom surface of said base unit when said portable computer is in said tablet configuration and such that said primary input device and display device are between said back surface of said display unit and said bottom surface of said base unit when said portable computer is in said closed configuration; and

a latching assembly capable of being selectively changed from an open state to a closed state, said latching assembly having a first portion coupled to said display unit, a second portion coupled to said base unit, a latching arm mounted on the first portion and a latching block mounted on the second portion,

wherein said latching assembly is changed to said closed state to maintain said portable computer in one of said tablet configuration and said closed configuration

47. (New) The portable computer of claim 46, wherein the latching arm includes a first projection and a second projection, the latching block including a first cavity and a second cavity, the first projection and the second projection being parallel in respect to each other, the first projection is inserted into a first cavity when the portable computer

is in the open state and the first projection is inserted into a second cavity when the portable computer is in the closed state.

48. (New) A portable computer configurable in a table configuration, a laptop configuration, and a closed configuration, said portable computer comprising:

a base unit having a primary input device and a bottom surface;

a display unit having a display device and a back surface, said display unit movably attached to said base unit such that said primary input device is between said back surface of said display unit and said bottom surface of said base unit when said portable computer is in said tablet configuration and such that said primary input device and display device are between said back surface of said display unit and said bottom surface of said base unit when said portable computer is in said closed configuration; and

a latching assembly capable of being selectively changed from an open state to a closed state, said latching assembly having a first portion coupled to said base unit, a second portion coupled to said display unit, a latching arm mounted on the first portion and a latching block mounted on the second portion,

wherein said latching assembly is changed to said closed state to maintain said portable computer in one of said tablet configuration and said closed configuration.

49. (New) The portable computer of claim 48, wherein the latching arm includes a first projection and a second projection, the latching block including a first cavity and a second cavity, the first projection and the second projection being parallel in respect to each other, the first projection is inserted into a first cavity when the portable computer



is in the open state and the first projection is inserted into a second cavity when the portable computer is in the closed state.